

ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

When a plurality of image data sets such as thumbnail images are transferred, stress of a user waiting for the transfer can be reduced. When a client requests a URL for displaying thumbnail images from a server, the server starts up a CGI program and sends data K for measuring a response time to the client. The client replies at the time of receiving the data, and the server measures the response time as a transfer rate on a network. Based on a permitted transfer time set in advance and the response time, the number of the image data sets is determined and an html file for displaying images whose number has been determined is transferred to the client. The client then requests transfer of the image data sets that have been determined from the server, and the server transfers the image data sets to the client. In this manner, the client can display the thumbnail images.